

**Minutes of 42nd RLTS Annual General Meeting
held at The Clubhouse, 425 Watling Street, Radlett, on Wednesday 21st March 2018**

Present – Jackie Underwood (JU) – Club President, Simon Spalter (SS) – Club Chairman, Dermot Wickham (DW) – Hon Secretary, Simon Hancock (SH) – Hon Treasurer, Kyri Costi (KC) – Squash Chair, Mike Jaffa (MJ) – Tennis Chair, Suzi Lynch (SL), Nyall Jacobs (NJ).

1. Apologies for absence were received from Jeanette Taylor, Melissa Singer, Sean O’Sullivan, Wendy Mote & Jonathan Rosen.

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were approved. Proposed: Molly Barton; Seconded: Judy Budnick.

3. THE GENERAL COMMITTEE REPORT – Simon Spalter

SS felt that the Club had made further progress over the past year, with the clubhouse having been substantially refurbished, new LED lighting for the squash courts & improved IT systems. RLTS had also hosted a LTA Grade 3 tennis tournament & the Herts Closed Squash Championships. Summer coaching camps were thriving & social events have been reinvigorated. SS welcomed the approval of the court refurbishment programme at the EGM.

He thanked Brian Hardy, the outgoing President, for his contribution to the Club over many years & welcomed Jackie Underwood, the incoming President. He also thanked Masood Mogul for his past work as Membership Secretary & Stephen Middleton for his contribution to House & Grounds. He thanked our main benefactor, John Apthorp, for his considerable support & passed on his condolences for the recent loss of his wife.

He requested that more Members volunteer to help on Committees and elsewhere, as otherwise the Club might need to use paid individuals & there remains much to do as we considered possible major enhancements such as parking and indoor courts on the Piggeries.

There were no questions.

4. HON. TREASURER’S REPORT – Simon Hancock

The Accounts to Dec 2017 have been independently reviewed by Daniel Wolfson & Co., with minimal revisions. A copy will be posted on the Members’ section of the Club website & a link will be emailed to Members.

SH highlighted that revenue was stable & although the number of Members in the 4 main categories, which provide 90% of Club revenue, was slightly down, our numbers seemed to be holding up better than many other local clubs. He asked Members to encourage friends to join, as the average age of our adult tennis members is 59. Annual cash flow is steady at £40k, much of which is conserved to fund future capital projects. We have £238k in cash, which includes John Apthorp’s £60k donation, which is earmarked to help with the proposed court project.

Questions

Jim Murphy asked if our subscription income was expected to continue to fall. SH said it had stabilised over the past 2 years. Jim asked if we should spend more on marketing; SH felt spending on advertising

wasn't cost effective & wanted a Member to volunteer to help with marketing. SS has been looking at marketing initiatives outside Radlett, targeting the 20-40 demographic.

Judy Budnick asked if we should try to re-engage with former members who have left the club. SS agreed, although many have left because they have moved away from the area.

Alison Argyle asked if we should push the £20 incentive for introducing a new member. This was agreed.

A motion to approve & adopt the accounts, proposed by Jim Murphy & seconded by Alison Argyle, was passed unanimously.

5. TENNIS – Mike Jaffa

MJ thanked Alison Argyle for her valuable assistance with the running of Club teams. He looked forward to the Open Day, the Grade 3 LTA tournament in August & the club tournament in September. He felt that RLTSO offered something for everyone in terms of teams, social tennis & coaching from Hertfordshire's coach of the year, Jordan Miles and his team. He appealed for more Members to volunteer to help with teams & the Tennis Committee.

There were no questions.

6. SQUASH – Kyri Costi

KC thanked the Squash Committee for giving up their time to review the running of the Club squash section. He also thanked Jeanette Taylor and Melissa Singer for all their valued assistance over the year. We ran four teams last winter, one of which gained promotion. It was good to see some new Members playing for Club teams. Thanks to Dave Rawlings for sponsoring the team shirts.

Thanks to Jim Murphy for organising the Club Leagues & to Nigel Grant for organising the Racketball Ladder.

Thanks to Sunil Kotecha for providing the LED lights for the squash courts at cost.

Julian Craxton's Sunday Junior Squash sessions have been very successful, with many Juniors high in the Hertfordshire rankings.

Social squash is now active every Monday & Friday & the Monday session is particularly popular. KC would like some help with the organisation.

We are looking at arranging for an overall Squash coaching organiser.

No questions.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President – Jackie Underwood

Proposed by Simon Spalter; seconded by Simon Hancock.

Elected without objection.

Committee members:

Chairman – Simon Spalter

Treasurer – Simon Hancock

Tennis Chair – Mike Jaffa

Squash Chair – Kyri Costi

Communications – Niall Jacobs

Bar & Social – Suzi Lynch

None were contested and therefore all were confirmed in place for the coming year.

Hon. Secretary - Dermot Wickham

Proposed by Simon Spalter and seconded by Mike Jaffa.

7. APPROVE THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT REVIEWER OF THE ACCOUNTS

The motion to approve the re-appointment of Daniel Wolfson as Independent Reviewer was proposed by Jim Murphy & seconded by Simon Hancock. The approval was carried unanimously.

8. AOB

Molly Barton asked about tennis bursaries. SS answered that the majority of funds came from the profits of the annual LTA3 tournament. Last year, we granted support to 4 children but it came to an end as the parents did not support the program. In 2018 we intend to work via local primary schools and their teachers to identify children for bursary support and the child will be supported by a mix of coach, club and parent.

Jon Sandford was disappointed that the bar had no change for cash purchases & asked if we could introduce a card system, which also gave Members a discount. SH & DW felt that the cost would be prohibitive & this would not be covered by increased sales. SS said the policy had been to keep minimal cash on the premises since a recent break-in & that payment by contact-less card was already available. KC cited potential security issues with a card system.

Jon Sandford asked if the RLTSO could provide shirts for team players, which is the practice at most other squash clubs. SS said he & Jordan Miles had been looking at introducing RLTSO branded clothing & said the Club would support the idea & welcomed further input, especially with regard to sponsorship.

Suzi Lynch thanked the Members who had supported social events over the past year and thanked Jeanette Taylor & volunteers who had assisted with these events.

Jon Sandford mentioned that visiting squash team players had been very complimentary about our refurbished bar area.

MJ led a show of thanks to Simon Spalter for his huge efforts for the benefit of the Club & Members over the past year.

JU thanked the Committee for their contribution to the successful running of the Club over the past year & also congratulated Jordan Miles on his recent award as Hertfordshire Coach of the Year.

The meeting closed at 9:20pm.